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**Big Butterfly Count results – Scotland**

* A total of 4,188 counts were submitted by 3,207 participants. The most widely counted butterfly in the Big Butterfly Count in Scotland was Small Tortoiseshell, almost 5,000 individuals were seen, giving it pole position in the rankings.
* Small Tortoiseshell generally fares better in Scotland and Northern Ireland than other UK countries in the Big Butterfly Count. On average, participants in Scotland saw three times as many Small Tortoiseshells per Count than people in England. A recent study has shown that in each of the last four years, a substantial majority of Small Tortoiseshells are in hibernation well before the end of the Big Butterfly Count in south-east England. This suggests that climate change may be having an impact on this species in the south.
* Although numbers were down very slightly on 2019, Small White and Large White were in second and third positions.
* Meadow Brown increased by 100%, building on the fortunes this species experienced in 2019. Meadow Brown had its best year in the Big Butterfly Count in Scotland since 2014.
* For the second year in a row Ringlet increased in Scotland, experiencing a 94% increase on 2019 numbers and having its best Big Butterfly Count in Scotland since 2014. Speckled Wood fared well in Scotland increasing by 31% after a small decline in 2019, this species also had its best year since 2011.
* The number of Six-spot Burnet moths counted in Scotland soared with a 208% increase in numbers, this comes on the back of the small increase seen in this day-flying moth in 2019.
* Common Blue did well in Scotland, with an increase in numbers of 71% from 2019, this species had its best year in Scotland since 2017, this is a welcome increase after two successive years of declining numbers.
* As with the rest of the UK, numbers of Painted Lady were down hugely, this is to be expected after the phenomenal migration event that occurred during the Big Butterfly Count 2019, when a staggering 141,649 individuals were counted in Scotland, in comparison only 231 were seen in the 2020 event.
* Red Admiral is one of our regular migrant species that fared well in 2019 after a disappointing 2018 season. However, in 2020 numbers for this species fell by a half in Scotland.
* During the 2020 Big Butterfly Count in Scotland a total of 26,972 butterflies and moths were counted. The average number of individual butterflies seen per count was 6.46, this is the down by -70% on 2019 figures and is the lowest average number of individuals per count since in 2017. This indicates that 2020 has been a relatively poor year for the target species in Scotland.

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| **BBC 2020: Scotland** | | Abundance | Ave per Count | % change from 2019 |
| 1 | **Small Tortoiseshell** | 4,982 | 1.19 | **-21%** |
| 2 | **Small White** | 4,241 | 1.01 | **-25%** |
| 3 | **Large White** | 2,793 | 0.67 | **-5%** |
| 4 | **Meadow Brown** | 2,687 | 0.64 | **100%** |
| 5 | **Peacock** | 2,631 | 0.63 | **-56%** |
| 6 | **Ringlet** | 2,520 | 0.60 | **94%** |
| 7 | **Green-veined White** | 1,970 | 0.47 | **5%** |
| 8 | **Red Admiral** | 1,614 | 0.39 | **-50%** |
| 9 | **Six-spot Burnet** | 904 | 0.22 | **208%** |
| 10 | **Common Blue** | 861 | 0.21 | **71%** |
| 11 | **Speckled Wood** | 822 | 0.20 | **31%** |
| 12 | **Small Copper** | 373 | 0.09 | **27%** |
| 13 | **Painted Lady** | 231 | 0.06 | **-100%** |
| 14 | **Comma** | 183 | 0.04 | **-27%** |
| 15 | **Silver Y** | 106 | 0.03 | **-64%** |
| 16 | **Holly Blue** | 38 | 0.01 | **-55%** |
| 17 | **Brimstone** | 16 | 0.00 | **-62%** |
|  | Total | 26,972 | 6.46 | **-70%** |